In the Specification

[0030]   Exemplary processing of mosaic data (also referred to as preprocessing) according to one possible configuration includes linearization, flare removal and color balancing operations. Further processing of mosaic data includes denoising and sharpening. According to exemplary aspects, denoising and sharpening may be implemented separately or in a common processing step. A robust estimation filter may be utilized to perform the denoising or sharpening in the described configuration. Examples of robust estimation filters include bilateral filters. Exemplary bilateral filtering operations are described in "Bilateral filtering for gray and color images," by C. Tomasi and R. Manduchi available from *Proc. IEE IEEE intl. Conf on Computer Vision*, 1998, and a U.S. Patent Application entitled "Method of Bilateral Filtering of Digital Images," naming Ron Maurer as inventor, assigned to the assignee hereof and having docket number 100110348-1, and the teachings of the article and the patent application are incorporated herein by reference.